

Minutes of the Work Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Carbon County, State of Utah, held May 18, 2015 at the Courthouse Building, Price, Utah, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

Those present: Casey Hopes, Commission Chair
Jae Potter, Commissioner
Jake Mellor, Commissioner

Also present: Lori Perez, Deputy Clerk
Jason Llewelyn, Emergency Services
Christian Bryner, Attorney
Joan Powell, Mayor Wellington City
John Schindler, Wellington Attorney
Kirt Tatton, Wellington City Council
Glen Wells, Wellington City Council
Jeff Wood, Sheriff Carbon County
Don Marrelli, Ambulance
Doug Parsons, Mayor East Carbon
Seth Oveson, Clerk/Auditor

Clerk's Certificate of Compliance with Open Meeting Law was filed.

Commissioner Hopes welcomed everyone. The meeting began at 3:12 p.m.

1) **Fire Contract Meeting with Wellington City**

Commissioner Hopes welcomed everyone and explained that at the last meeting there were five items that needed to be addressed:

- 1) The first item is for billing for extractions. The specifics of extraction need to be in an ordinance. Jason Llewelyn said Wellington will bill Carbon County for extractions on County calls with a detailed billing submittal for reimbursement. Under Utah State law you can only bill for actual costs. The costs can be for responding to a call, an hourly rate per person who responds and mileage per vehicle. You can add an overage amount to cover additional costs. It is set up in the same ways as the contract with the State Department of Fire, Forestry and Land. Jason further explained. Don Marrelli said the amounts that can be charged for each item are set by the State.

Commissioner Hopes asked about volunteer firemen and how they are paid. Jason explained how this works including that you want to bill for each item or piece of equipment used. In order to get reimbursed the billing has to be specific.

On County calls a certain amount of dollars are guaranteed then it's up to the County to get the money back from the insurance companies who cover the vehicles. Not a lot of money is collected from the insurance and the County eats the balance. Wellington may get paid for the call from the County, but the County will typically lose money.

Mayor Powell discussed the importance of getting the reports written up right after a call occurs in order to get reimbursed.

Commissioner Potter asked how the information for the insurance is gathered. Jason said it comes from the deputy reports who respond. Jason explained that they record the date, vehicle type, equipment used and other valuable information. The County uses both Whitney and Angela to complete and process the paperwork.

Commissioner Hopes said these reports need to be completed as soon as possible. If they are three months out reimbursements are not going to happen.

Commissioner Potter discussed the Hazmat ordinance and if it needs to be changed. Attorney Christian Bryner said it matches Hazmat statute. Commissioner Potter asked if it can be expanded to cover cities. The discussion continued including other rural communities ordinances for emergency services.

HIPAA laws (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) and the liability issue from first responders posting photos and information on social media was discussed. A paid emergency responder falls under the HIPAA laws and sharing information or photos is a huge violation. The reason some communities are not billing is because unpaid responders do not fall under the HIPAA laws.

Commissioner Potter and Jason said training fire fighters about this is important so lawsuits are avoided. There are a lot of issues out there. Volunteers are given a monthly stipend as a clothing allowance or for training, it is not a salary. Once you give them an hourly or salary wage then you are liable.

- 2) The second item discussed was training and the obligation of the County to provide in house training. A list has been compiled of trainings offered by the County to help the cities. The cities need to be willing to come to these trainings. Mayor Powell asked about specialized trainings that can be offered to a wider area. Commissioner Hopes explained the trainings that Jason and Don can offer and bringing in specialists for other trainings offered to everyone including the surrounding counties which will bring down the cost.

Jason and Angela are working on a Google calendar that will list all of the trainings being offered in the County and possibly the State and could include Don's medical trainings as well. Commissioner Potter would like the two training schedules posted together.

Commissioner Hopes said a complete calendar of trainings will be compiled and available to everyone and if a specific training is needed to let the County know so that we can be provided.

- 3) The third point is Call Out Protocol. Fire Chief Johnny Powell was not in attendance. This was discussed later.
- 4) The fourth item concerns grant writing and finding. Jason has shared information concerning this with Mayor Powell including the variety of grants available, forwarding grant applications to Wellington when he is made aware of them and what specific grants can cover such things as clothing and training equally for everyone based on policy. Jason's staff can cover some of the grant writing.
- 5) The fifth item is the contract with Wellington. Commissioner Hopes explained that the cities are trying to finalize their budgets now because they are due the first of June. Their fiscal years begin July 1. The County's fiscal year begins January 1. Commissioner Hopes asked that if the County put it in next year's budget can the cities wait until January before it is executed. Mayor Powell and Mayor Parson discussed this.

Joan asked if the Commission had come up with a new amount for the contract. Commissioner Potter said they have discussed it but it needs to be an agenda item in a public meeting.

Commissioner Hopes said that the increase will be across the board to all of the cities. Mayor Parsons said East Carbon is small and covers less County area then the other cities and they are not expecting help. The discussion continued including East Carbon's part time volunteer ambulance service, East Carbon's fire trucks are good but their SEPA will be expiring and they are looking for a grant to replace six or seven of them.

Pursuing a fire district is still a key item. They would like to have everyone on board but it may work if it doesn't include Price City. Glen Wells thinks it will eventually go to a district because of the high cost of individual rural fire departments. A fire district will pull resources together and allow for more grant approval.

Commissioner Hopes said the County does not want to be the controller of a fire district but have a seat on the board along with everyone else and as an additional source to go after grants. The Mayors need to let the Commissioners know what resources they want.

Mayor Powell said they could work towards a fire district with the interested communities and maybe others will join later after they see how it works. She thinks we can make things happen.

Commissioner Hopes reiterated that city budgets have to be finalized by June 1. The first Commission meeting would be June 3rd. He asked if this is too late. Both Mayors think this will work. It will be put on the agenda for the June 3rd Commission Meeting.

Attorney John Schindler said he likes what he is hearing. Additional mayor and fire chief meetings still need to be held. Writing up a contract will not be difficult and he can step up the efforts to have the document done. A detailed document will not be ready by June 3rd. The Extrication issue needs to be addressed in the contract.

Commissioner Hopes summarized the meeting:

- A) A contract needs to be worked through between Attorney Bryner and Attorney Schindler. The proposed amount of the contract will be on the June 3rd Commission Meeting agenda.

Mayor Powell asked how this would work. The Commission would come up with an amount and each city council would have to approve it in a city council meeting. Attorney Schindler said the budget cycles are an issue. Commissioner Potter asked if the amount needs to be run by each mayor before the June meeting. How to we facilitate the concern if the amount doesn't satisfy each mayor. Attorney Bryner said the concern is the amount and once that is agreed upon then the contract can be finalized in a public meeting.

Attorney Schindler said it has important ramifications for the whole County. Mayor Parsons said you can add money to a city budget at any time.

Commissioner Hopes said we will keep it on the June 3 meeting and it will be placed at the beginning of the agenda in order to make it easier for Wellington to attend.

- B) A training calendar will be created and sent out to everyone including police, cities, fire chiefs, city councils and Mayors. Jason requested any additional contact information for anyone who would like to receive the calendar.
- C) The billing for extraction was explained further by Jason who is willing to answer any questions concerning it. Mayor Powell explained to City Councilman Tatton about submitting reports in a timely manner in order to bill quickly. Commissioner Hopes further explained the issue of liability and selfies taken at accidents scenes and then posted on social media and the violation of HIPAA laws.
- D) Call out protocol – Don and Jason are willing to help with this and work with Fire Chief Powell. There are things the County can do to reduce the load. Wellington is often a faster responder then the County depending on where the call is. There may be calls where everyone doesn't need to go out, maybe only the ambulance is needed. It needs to be decided which types of calls require what type of response.

Attorney Schindler said protocols should be reviewed as a cost savings for the cities. He will follow up on this. There is a potential problem with dispatch and how to make it work easily for them.

Commissioner Hopes said call out protocol plays a valuable role because of the wear and tear on the trucks. Attorney Schindler said replacement of the trucks is based on age not how often they are used however he understands the cost savings due to the wear on tires, replaceable parts and fuel costs. But it doesn't solve the whole big picture.

It was asked if another meeting needs to be schedules after June 3. It was decided to allow John and Christian to finalize the contract and if another meeting is needed it will be scheduled then.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

ATTEST:


Seth Oveson, County Clerk/Auditor



